

Homework 2, CPSC 421/501, 2025

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(1) 9.2.8

(a)  $f(A) = \emptyset$ , and

$$f(C) = \{A, B, C\} = P$$

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(b) Since  $A \notin f(A)$ ,  $A \in T$

Since  $C \in f(C)$ ,  $C \notin T$

We know  $T \neq f(A)$ , since  $A \notin f(A)$

but  $A \in T$ . We know  $T \neq f(C)$  since

$C \in f(C)$  but  $C \notin T$ .

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(c) Now we know  $f(B) = \{A, C\}$ , and

have  $B \notin f(B)$  so  $B \in T$ .

Since  $C \notin T$  and  $A, B \in T$ , we have

$$T = \{A, B\}.$$

(2) 9.4.1 (a)

if  $(i, j) \in \mathbb{N}^2$  and  $i + j \leq 2$ ,

then  $(i, j) = (1, 1)$  ;

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if  $(i, j) \in \mathbb{N}^2$  and  $i + j = 3$ ,

then  $(i, j) = (1, 2)$  or  $(2, 1)$

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Similarly,

if  $(i, j) \in \mathbb{N}^2$  and  $i + j = k$  for

some  $k = 2, 3, 4, \dots$  then

$(i, j)$  is one of finitely many

values, namely

$(1, k-1)$  or  $(2, k-2)$  or  $\dots$  or  $(k-1, 1)$

Hence, for each  $k = 2, 3, 4, \dots$   
there are only finitely many  
 $(i, j) \in \mathbb{N}^2$  such that  $i+j = k$ .

(And, of course each  $(i, j) \in \mathbb{N}^2$   
does satisfy  $i+j = k$  for some  $k = 2, 3, \dots$ )

Hence we can write a list of all elements  
of  $\mathbb{N}^2$ , namely

$$\underbrace{(1, 1)}_{i+j=2}, \quad \underbrace{(1, 2), (2, 1)}_{i+j=3}, \quad \underbrace{(1, 3), (2, 2), (3, 1)}_{i+j=4},$$

$\dots$

Hence  $\mathbb{N}^2$  is in bijection with  $\mathbb{N}$ .



[ Note: There are many equivalent

ways of writing this; for example,

one can write  $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$  as a table

$(1,1)$   $(1,2)$   $(1,3)$   $\dots$

$(2,1)$   $(2,2)$   $(2,3)$   $\dots$

$(3,1)$   $(3,2)$   $(3,3)$   $\dots$

$\vdots$   $\vdots$   $\vdots$   $\ddots$

Then the solution above is just

like the proof that  $\mathbb{Q}^+$  is countable.]

(b) [Again, there are a number of ways of solving this problem.]

For each  $l = 3, 4, 5, \dots$  there are only finitely many triples  $(i, j, k)$  such that  $i + j + k = l$ . Hence we can list all triples in order of  $i + j + k$ , e.g.

$$i + j + k = 3 : (1, 1, 1)$$

$$i + j + k = 4 : (1, 1, 2), (1, 2, 1), (2, 1, 1)$$

$$i + j + k = 5, 6, \dots : \text{etc.}$$

( Question for your amusement: how many triples do you get s.t.  $i + j + k = l$ , as a function of  $l$  ? )

(C) There are many ways to do this...

Here's one:

to each  $(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k) \in \mathbb{N}^k$ , say

the "rank" of  $(n_1, \dots, n_k)$  is

$n_1 + n_2 + \dots + n_k$ . Then

(1) each element of  $\mathbb{N}^*$  has finite

"rank", and

(2) for each  $r = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  there are

only finitely many elements of  $\mathbb{N}^*$   
of "rank" equal to  $r$ : indeed,

$\text{rank}(n_1, \dots, n_k) = r$  implies

(a)  $k \leq r$  (since each element of  $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, \dots\}$  has value  $\geq 1$ ), and

(b) each  $n_i$  has  $1 \leq n_i \leq r$ .

In view of (a), (b), we have

$\text{rank}(n_1, \dots, n_k) \leq r$  implies

$(n_1, \dots, n_k)$  lies in

$S_r = [r]^0 \cup [r]^1 \cup \dots \cup [r]^r$ , where

$[r] = \{1, 2, \dots, r\}$ , so  $S_r$  is finite.

Hence we can list the elements of  $\mathbb{N}^*$  by their rank, listing them

as the elements of  $S_0$   
 " " "  $S_1$   
 " " "  $S_2$   
 ⋮

giving a list  $l_1, l_2, l_3, l_4, \dots$

s.t. each element of  $\mathbb{N}^*$  is found  
 somewhere on the list. Hence this  
 gives a surjection

$$\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^* \quad (\text{namely } i \mapsto l_i).$$

Hence  $\mathbb{N}^*$  is countable.

(3) The bonus question: [this solution is not as complete as for a non-bonus question].

(a) There is a bijection between

$[2]^{\mathbb{N}}$  and  $\text{Power}(\mathbb{N})$  which takes

$(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, \dots)$  (hence  $a_i \in \{1, 2\}$  for all  $i$ )

to

$$\{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid a_n = 2\}$$

(or  $a_n = 1$  if you prefer).

Hence  $[2]^{\mathbb{N}}$  is uncountable, since

$\text{Power}(\mathbb{N})$  is (by Cantor's theorem)

(b) Idea: group the sequence

$$(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, \dots) \in [2]^{\mathbb{N}}$$

into groups of 2 bits:

$$a_1 a_2, a_3 a_4, a_5 a_6, \dots$$

and map

$$11 \mapsto 1$$

$$12 \mapsto 2$$

$$21 \mapsto 3$$

$$22 \mapsto 4$$

(or something  
similar...)

to get a bijection; e.g.

11 12 22 21 11 12 ...  
↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

11, 12, 22, 21, 11, 12, ...

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

1 2 4 3 1 2 etc.

(c) Similarly group the bits (binary digits) into groups of size 3.

(d) Reverse the bijection  $[2]^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow [4]^{\mathbb{N}}$

and apply the bijection  $[2]^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow [8]^{\mathbb{N}}$

(hence each group of 3 elements of  $[4]$  is mapped to a group of 2 elements of  $[8]$ ).

(e) Take  $f: [8] \rightarrow [7]$  with  $f(i)=i$  for  $i \leq 7$ , and  $f(8)$  arbitrary

(Question: how many surjections  $[8] \rightarrow [7]$  are there?)

The map taking

$$(a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots) \mapsto (f(a_1), f(a_2), \dots)$$

gives such a bijection

(f) Similarly.

(g) Compose the surjections

$$[7]^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow [2]^{\mathbb{N}} \quad \text{and} \quad [2]^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow [8]^{\mathbb{N}}$$

(the second function is also a bijection,  
but any bijection is also a surjection),

Not for credit: ?? You can set up a

map  $[7]^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow [0,1]$  taking

$(a_1, a_2, \dots)$  to  $\bullet a_1 a_2 a_3 \dots$ , viewed

as a base 7 expansion, but you get

collisions, e.g.  $.1666\dots = .20$  in base 7.

So you could take out these countable many

collisions, and do the same for  $[8]^{\mathbb{N}}$

(Q: What about a bijection  $[7]^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow [0,1]$  ??

These sets have the same cardinality, in any system of axioms where  $S$  and  $S \times \{1,2\}$  have the cardinality for  $S$  infinite, such as ZFC.)

(4) (a) The set of  $i, j \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $i+j=l$  for  $l$  fixed is

$$\{ (1, l-1), (2, l-2), \dots, (l-1, 1) \}$$

which has  $l-1$  elements. The number of pairs  $(i, j)$  with  $i+j \leq l$  is

$$1+2+\dots+l-1 = \binom{l}{2}.$$

So if  $i+j=a$ , there are  $\binom{a-1}{2}$  fractions

$i'/j'$  with  $i'+j' \leq a-1$  that appear on

the list strictly before  $i/j$ , and  $i/j$  occurs

at latest in position  $\binom{a}{2}$ .

(b)  $\binom{a-1}{2}$  fractions  $i'/j$ , occur

with  $i' + j' \leq a-1$ . Since we are

ordering the fractions on level  $a$  as

$$1/a-1, 2/a-2, \dots, a-1/1$$

the fraction  $i'/j$  is the  $i^{\text{th}}$  fraction

on this list, and hence occurs as  $S_k$

where

$$k = \binom{a-1}{2} + i = \binom{i+j-1}{2} + i$$

$$= \frac{(i+j-1)(i+j-2)}{2} + i$$

(c) The relative density of reduced

fractions in the way we have listed them  
is well-known to be

$$\left(1 - \frac{1}{2^2}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{3^2}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{5^2}\right) \dots$$

intuitively,  $(i, j)$  is reduced iff

(1)  $i, j$  are not both divisible by 2,

which occurs with probability  $\frac{3}{4} = 1 - \frac{1}{2^2}$ ,

since both are divisible by 2 with  
probability  $\frac{1}{2^2}$

AND

(2)  $\dots \dots \dots 3$

AND  $\dots \dots \dots 1 - \frac{1}{3^2}$

etc.,

and these probabilities are "sufficiently close to  
being independent" so that the probability of  
all these events holding is just the product,

Of course, this is not a proof. For hints as to how to get a rigorous proof, see Homework 1, page 7, Fall 2019 version of CPSC 421/501 (you can get to the Fall 2019 homepage from this year's homepage). This product is easily seen to be

$$\frac{1}{\zeta(2)}, \text{ where } \zeta(s) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{1}{n^s} \\ = \prod_{p \text{ prime}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^s}\right)$$

and it is well known that

$$\zeta(2) = \frac{\pi^2}{6}.$$

Hence the relative density is  $\frac{6}{\pi^2}$ , which

is well-known to be irrational (even transcendental).

If we had

$$k = \alpha_1 + i\alpha_2 + j\alpha_3 + i^2\alpha_4 + ij\alpha_5 + j^2\alpha_6$$

with  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_6 \in \mathbb{Q}$ , then the

fraction  $1/n$  would occur in position

$$\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + n\alpha_3 + \alpha_4 + n\alpha_5 + n^2\alpha_6;$$

however its true occurrence is in position

$$\binom{n+1}{2} \left( \frac{6}{\pi^2} + o_n(1) \right) = n^2 \left( \frac{3}{\pi^2} + o_n(1) \right)$$

which cannot equal  $n^2\alpha_6 + O(n)$ .

One can take many variants of the fraction  $1/n$  above.